

Nutria

(*Myocastor coypus*)



Identification:

Size: 2-3 ft. long, average wt. = 16-20 lbs.

Coloration: Dark brown

Other distinguishing features: Large yellow incisors and a large, rat-like tail also characterize this animal.

Habitat:

Nutrias were introduced from South America in a misguided attempt to control aquatic vegetation. They are found in and near area lakes, ponds, and streams.

Benefits:

None.

Problems / Concerns:

Nutrias damage aquatic habitats and have been known to eat vegetation that is critical to the survival of many species. These animals also breed rapidly. The resulting overpopulation results in even more extensive damage.

City Management Policy:

Management options for this species should strive for eradication. Trapping and destroying them is recommended.

Note: Trapping and relocating animals does not work. It is not a viable solution.

Citizen's Responsibility:

Nutria are not a natural component of our local aquatic ecosystems. Citizens are discouraged from feeding them.

Similar Species:

Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

Size: 3-4 ft. long, average wt. = 40 lbs.

Coloration: Rich, dark brown

Other distinguishing features: Large yellow incisors and a large, paddle-like tail also characterize this animal.



Beaver Photo: TPWD